

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 SS-15 PM-03 L-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 DPW-01

EUR-10 /070 W

----- 089862

R 301237Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5304

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13711

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON, USSAG
NAKHON PHANOM FROM CAN THO JULY 28 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR
INFO

QUOTE CAN THO 614

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, ID, VS

SUBJECT: MR IV SITREP FOR JULY 22-28, 1973

SUMMARY: INCREASED FIGHTING ADJACENT TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER
IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS REGION OF CHAU DOC HELPED TO PRODUCE ON
JULY 26 AND JULY 28 THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF DAILY ENEMY-INITIATED
INCIDENTS SINCE CEASEFIRE II. OVERALL ACTIVITY IN MR IV,
HOWEVER, DECLINED. A PHNOM PENH-BOUND CONVOY CLEARED VIETNAMESE
WATERS JULY 22. THE CANADIANS DEPARTED MR IV FOR SAIGON JULY 26.
THOUGH THE OUTGOING INDONESIAN DELEGATION CHIEF CLAIMS THAT THE
INDONESIANS ARE CONTINUING "OBSERVATIONS" OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS,
IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER HIS STATEMENT WILL STAND THE TEST
OF TIME.

1. SECURITY SITUATION

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A. FIGHTING AND CASUALTIES FOR THE SIXTH WEEK OF CEASEFIRE II

WERE SLIGHTLY DOWN FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEKS' STATISTICS. DURING JULY 22-28, THE GVN REPORTED A DAILY AVERAGE OF 24 NVA/VC-INITATED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, 51 NVA/VC KIA AND 18 GVN KIA. THE AVERAGE STATISTICS FOR THE WEEK JULY 15-21 WERE 27, 70 AND 18, RESPECTIVELY.

B. INCREASED FIGHTING IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA OF CHAU DOC PROVINCE JULY 26 AND JULY 28 OCCASIONED THE LARGEST NUMBER OF DAILY INCIDENTS (54 AND 53, RESPECTIVELY) REPORTED BY MR IV SINCE CEASEFIRE II. RANGERS AND RF UNITS, SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND AIR STRIKES, HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PUSH THE NVA 101-D REGIMENT OUT OF THE AREA. ON JULY 26, THE NVA RESPONDED TO THE PRESSURE WITH HEWGY SHELLING OF GVN POSITINKAS. THE RANGERS' EFFORTS TO RETAKE GIAI MOUNTAIN HAVE BEEN AIDED BY HEAVY ARTILLERY. DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 9-15, ARVN GUNNERS FIRED 2000 ROUNDS, FOLLOWED BY 631 ROUNDS THE WEEK OF JULY 15-21. IN ADDITION, BEGINNING ON JULY 17, THE RANGERS WERE SUPPORTED BY FIVE A-37 AIR STRIKES. ON NEARBY COTO MOUNTAIN, RF UNITS AND VC CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE FOR CERTAIN KEY RIDGES OVERLOOKING TRI TON DISTRICT TOWN. THE GVN STEPPED UP THE PRESSURE ON JULY 23, AND THE VC, PROBABLY IN RESPONSE, DROPPED TWO MORTAR ROUNDS INTO TRI TON, CAUSING THE ICCS TO QUICKLY WITHDRAW ITS TEAMS FROM THE TOWN (CAN THO 0597).

C. A MEKONG RIVERINE RELIEF CONVOY CROSSED THE CAMBODIAN BORDER WITHOUT INCIDENT JULY 22 (CAN THO 0593). THE CONVOY CONSISTED OF FIVE OIL TANKERS, ONE CARGO SHIP, ONE SMALL BOAT AND TWO BARGES.

2. ICCS

A. THE CANADIAN DELEGATION DEPARTED CAN THO FOR SAIGON JULY 26. THE THREE PARTY ICCS THEY LEFT BEHIND WILL PROBABLY REMAIN INACTIVE, COLLECTIVELY. OUTGOING REGION VII INDONESIAN DELEGATION CHIEF COL S. I. SANTOSA TOLD THE CONGEN ON JULY 27 THAT HIS DELEGATION WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE "OBSERVATIONS" OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DURING THE UNCERTAIN PERIOD FOLLOWING CANADA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ICCS. EVEN IF THE COMMISSION MOST REMAIN SUPRINE UNTIL THE PARIS SIGNATORIES DETERMINE ITS FATE, SANTOSA SAID, THE INDONESIANS WISH TO REMAIN INFORMED. HE SAID A MEMBER OF THEIR DELEGATION TRAVELED TO TRI TON DISTRICT TOWN, CHAU DOC CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVINCE, ON JULY 26 TO SURVEY THE SITUATION FOUR DAYS AFTER 120MM MORTAR FIRE DROVE THE ICCS FROM THE TEAM SITE. IF THE JMC CONTINUES TO PASS ALONG COMPLAINTS TO THE ICCS, THE INDONESIANS, ALSO, IF NECESSARY, WILL OBSERVE THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS AND REPORT TO THEIR NATIONAL SUPERIORS IN SAIGON. (COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE INDONESIANS WILL ACTUALLY PURSUE THIS POLICY.)

B. JMC: THE SCHEDULED RELEASE OF 52 CIVIL DETAINEES BY THE

PRG IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE WAS CANCELLED ON JULY 25 WITHOUT EX-
PLANATION. (COMMENT: INABILITY OF GVN AND PRG TO AGREE ON PICK
UP SITE LOCATIONS IS PROBABLY BEHIND CANCELLATION (CAN THO 0598).
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